

CONFIDENTIAL

ER-O-9227

24 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OCD

SUBJECT: Transliteration of Oriental Names

1. The memorandum to you of 9 February 1950 from the Chief of the Biographic Register on the above subject was referred to COAPS.
2. Comments from the Acting Chief of Foreign Documents Division and from the Chief of the Foreign Broadcast Information Division dated 15 and 20 February, respectively, are attached hereto.
3. We are also opposed to "committees," so suggest that the appropriate person or persons from your Biographic Register discuss this situation with the appropriate person or persons from FDD and FBID. After all, within this organization we prefer to have a "free flow" of discussion without the formality of committees. Here, we are on the banks of the Potomac rather than in the Land of the Bean and the Cod, so we hope that there will not be the well-known limited conversations of the Cabots and the Lodges.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief,
Coordination, Operations,
and Policy Staff

Encls
Cited

00✓ cc: Chief, FBID
Actg Chief, FDD } Thru AD/00

*sent 28 Feb 50
for info & file.
a.c.b.*

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 20 February 1950

FROM : Chief, FBID

SUBJECT: Transliteration of Oriental Names

REF : OCD Memorandum dated 9 February 1950, subject as above, transmitted through COAPS 10 February 1950

1. FBID is conforming to the provisions of [redacted] in transliterating from oriental languages except in the case of prominent personal names for which anomalous transliterations have become commonly accepted, as Syngman Rhee for Synman Yi.

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2. It is considered undesirable from point of view of communications wordage and of processing time to include both the standard transliteration and the common spelling of prominent names in each instance they occur in FBID material. It is suggested, however, that a list of the two or three dozen variant spellings of each language used in FBID material might be furnished as reference to ER and other recipients of the reports.

3. It is recommended that ER review the central FBID oriental name file, correct any discrepancies in transliteration and establish the list of standard exceptions suggested above. It is desirable that such a review be made prior to 1 March 1950 in order that corrections may be included in the visible index system which will become standard at all FBID stations during that month.

4. FBID can use a numerical equivalent for Chinese characters only in case of the limited amount of material received in numeral code. FBID will so identify new names received in numeral code.

5. It is believed that the operation of converting to standard transliteration the oriental names received in English Morse can most economically be performed in BR. FBID conversion would involve additional time lag between broadcast and publication, additional communications wordage, conversion of many times the number of names used in BR, and a great incidence of error, since linguists are not available for processing English Morse.

6. It is not considered essential to convoke the Transliteration Committee for purposes of enforcing standardization or of instructing FBID employees.

[redacted]
L. K. WHITE

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 15 February 1950

FROM : Acting Chief, FDD

SUBJECT: Transliteration of Oriental Names

Reference: COAPS memo to AD/00 dated 10 Feb 1950, same subject

1. The execution of [redacted] is the responsibility of the Chiefs of the Divisions concerned. FDD has taken remedial action in this matter.

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2. Minor technical difficulties not elaborated upon in [redacted] but falling within its scope, should be discussed by the various divisions applying this Instruction. To date, BR/OCD has not contacted FDD on this matter.

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3. Recommend that BR arrange a meeting among the responsible Korean experts in CIA to discuss these minor technical difficulties and arrive at a solution of them.

4. Further, as to recommendation of Chief, BR/OCD, I shall be very happy to withdraw completely from the Transliteration Committee in favor of "an officer of the CIA executive staff", although I do not feel a reconvening of the Committee is necessary until there is an objection on the part of one of the offices using the prescribed system.

[redacted]

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J. J. BAGNALL

[redacted]

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ER-0-8961

10 February 1950

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director, OO

SUBJECT: Transliteration of Oriental Names

Will you please supply us with the comments of
your Foreign Documents Division and Foreign Broadcast
Information Service on the attached OCD Biographic
Register memorandum on the above subject and return it
to us.


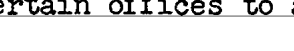


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PRESCOTT CHILDS
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

cc: AD/OCD

Att: Memo 9 Feb 50 from Chief, BR/OCD to AD/OCD,
Indorsed by AD/OCD to Executive

Paper prepared by  of BR staff
reporting alleged failure of certain offices to adhere
to transliteration systems per 

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*returned to
CDD PS 21 Feb 50
u.c.h.*

TO: AD/OED

9 February 1950

FROM: Chief, BR/OCD

SUBJ: Transliteration of Oriental Names

"Forwarded herewith is a paper prepared by [redacted] of the
BR staff reporting alleged failure of certain offices in CIA to adhere to
the transliteration systems established by [redacted] and her
recommendations for establishing uniformity in trans. practice."

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OO - Original too long to copy. Sent on 13 Feb 50
to: Acting Chief, FDD and FBID for comment and
recommendation - suspense date of 5 working days for
each Division given.

ACG

001/ 1 copy of FDD and Fbnd comments forwarded
to Chief, COAPS 21 Feb 50. Attachments
mentioned in COAPS memo 10 Feb returned also.

ACG

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP**

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	Acting Chief, FDD		
2	Chief, FBID		
3	Asst. Dir. for Operations		
4			
5			
FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	Asst. Director for Operations		13 Feb 50
2			
3			

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1,2 COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1,2 RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE

REMARKS:

Suspense date of 5 working days for each Division.

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SECRET CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED

Form No.
DEC 1949 55-5

Date 13 Feb 50

INTERNAL ROUTING AND RECORD SLIP
Office of Operations

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FROM :	TO :	NAME :	INITIAL
	✓	Mr. Carey	
	✓		
✓			
			50X1

REMARKS
This & The Feb 7 memo never
went to FBID, it was covered
in by Mr. Carey, I sent to O.S.O.
He can make copy of our O.S. file
copy for FBID, but the attachment
about in O.S. Please make copy.
Re this memo: should we
have copies made or forward
this to FBID + FBID, in turn?
A.C.B.

1. *Working*
enclosure in turn to FDD +
FBID for comment +
recommendations, with
suspense date of 5 working
days for each div.
2. The enclosure shows that
neither of them have
adhered to the accepted
system, (but is too long to copy).
3. The problem on geographic
names is related, but not